

# Hatchery Farming and its Socio-economic Attributes in Jammu and Kashmir

**Bashir Ahmad Dar**  
Lecturer,  
Department of Geography  
GDC Tral.  
Email id: [bashirqadir0@gmail.com](mailto:bashirqadir0@gmail.com)

**Gulzar Qadir Ganie**  
Lecturer  
Department of Geography  
GDC Tral.  
Email id: [gulzarganie62@gmail.com](mailto:gulzarganie62@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** India is seventh largest country with 2.4 percent of the world's geographic area and having four percent for water resources. These abundant natural resources have an important role to support about 17 percent populace and 15 percent of the livestock of the world. The agriculture including associated activities contributes about 14 percent of the country's GDP and around 50 percent population of the country. It also helps to provide raw material for agro-based industries which have grown during recent time. Poultry farming is a form of animal husbandry which deals with different types of domesticated birds such as chickens, ducks, turkeys and gees to produce various goods like meat, feathers or eggs. Hatchery farming is the liveliest constituent of modern poultry farming which is used for procreation and hatching the eggs to generate chicks. Hatchery farming produces chicks and then supplies it after a day adopting fake incubation. Hatchery can be a part of a breeding farm or it can be a franchiser or sub-franchiser for producing patent and day old chicks of broiler or layer. The present paper is based on primary survey of 150 poultry forms.

**Key words:** Hatchery, Farming, Resource, Population, Meat, Procreation.

## Introduction:

Hatchery is a new agri-business in Jammu and Kashmir that has developed during last fifteen years. A total of 150 hatchery farms have been surveyed for present study. The socio-economic attributes of hatchery farmers in the state have been analysed with respect to social status, size of land ownership and educational level of the farmers.

It is evident from the table given below that hatchery is dominated by landowning castes. Nine of the ten hatchery farmers in J&K do belong to landowning castes. Only about 19 percent hatchery owners belong to upper castes. The presence of lower castes is almost negligible with 2 percent.

Social status of farmers		Land size		Educational status	
Upper caste	25	Small farmers	40 (26.6)	Primary or below	10%
Landholding Castes	102	Medium farmers	80 (53.3)	Middle	12%
others	23	Large farmers	30(20.3)	Matric	15%
				Secondary	25%
				Graduation and above	38%

The study indicates that majority of hatchery farms belong to medium size landowners in the state. About one-fourth of them are also small landowners having ownership holding smaller than 10 acres of land. Rest of the hatcheries (about 21 percent) belongs to large farmers owning land more than 20 acres of land.

It is quite interesting that people with higher qualifications like graduation or above own a large number of hatcheries (about 38 percent) in the state. Similarity, about one-fifth hatcheries are owned by the people having attained senior secondary level education. That means majority of the hatcheries are owned by well educated people in the state. But on the other hand about one-fifth of them are also owned by illiterates and below primary level educated people.

Hatchery farming in Jammu and Kashmir on the trade scale started about twenty years before. It is a part of modern type of agricultural actions and rural economic base in the state where agricultural growth has raised. Hatchery requires different parameters like capacity, size, workers, age of farmers, generation of farmers, type and nature of ownership, year of starting, pattern of activity, input, output and income from the farms have been analysed with respect to the economic, social, and educational status of the hatchery farmers.

Near about 23 percent hatchery owners have very large size hatchery farms around one lakh capacity of chicks in the state. The survey shows that the landowning castes are dominating in hatchery farming in the

state. The percentage of those belong to upper castes is highest among very large size hatcheries followed by landowning castes. As for the size of large hatcheries are concerned, they are almost same in shape and size. But the landowning caste owners are moderately bigger in medium and little capacity hatcheries. About 59 percent hatcheries farms owned by landowning castes are of medium and small size. In the same way, average size land holders have major share (about 70 percent) of medium size hatcheries. It may be true that the ability of hatcheries is proportional to the size of landholding of hatchery owners. It is indicates that there is a optimistic bond between capacity of farms and landholding size of hatchery farmers.

The study also reveals that there is no inter-relationship between level of education and capacity size of hatchery. It is clear that percentage of small intake capacity hatchery forms are relatively higher in primary and middle level educated farmers and it is smallest in uneducated or below primary educated farmers. But in average intake capacity hatchery forms, there is higher percentage of matriculate farmers. On the other hand very large size hatchery forms have higher amount of uneducated and below primary level educated farmers. While, in case of large hatcheries the percentage of senior secondary educated farmers is premier. It may be said from the above study that there is no practical association amid level of education of the farmers and the capacity of the hatchery forms.

The next point in the study discusses allocation of hatchery forms by year of establishment and the social status of owners. It is evident from the survey that about one-fourth hatchery forms were set up to 1996. There is very less difference between upper and landowning castes in their ownership pattern during that time. However, none from the low castes was occupied in easily establishment of hatchery forms. In 2000-2007 about 31 percent of hatchery forms were established. The largest numbers of hatchery forms run by those who belong upper. Moreover, about one-fourth hatchery forms were established after 2006 and landowning castes have played a major role in this as about 31 percent of their hatchery forms were established. Beside this almost 21 -13 percent of all hatchery forms were established during 1997-2002 and both landowning and upper castes contributed in equal measures. The only hatchery owned by other castes was opened during the period 2003-2006 when most hatchery forms were opened. It is obvious that establishment of hatchery forms in the state was run by landowning and upper castes and they have still contributed to dominate last 20 years.

The age of farmers by social status of hatchery farmers is also taken in study. It shows that about 40 percent of hatcheries are run by middle age group (35- 45). The young group with age from 25 to 35 have

small small proportion of hatchery forms. It also indicates that about 35 percent farmers fall in between 45 – 55 age groups. Only 17 percent hatchery farmers are run by old those who are above 55. The fact is that, the proportion of old age group hatchery farmers is highest among the landowning castes. But hatchery farmers belonging to upper castes are mostly middle aged (43 percent) and mature aged (48 percent). In landowning castes also highest concentration of hatchery farmers is found in middle and mature age groups. But this caste group also has highest proportion of young hatchery farmers (16 percent).

The type of partnership and social status of hatchery farmers have been analyzed and it has been found that about 74 percent hatcheries are run by single owner in the state. Only 8 percent people have preferred to have two or three owners. It has been found that 15 percent hatchery forms have two owners. Again it has found both the landowning and upper castes more than three –fourth hatchery farms are owned by single owner. The single other caste owned hatchery has two partners. The proportion of three or four ownership partnership is higher among the upper castes. It shows that single owners dominate hatchery farming and there is no significant difference in type of ownership of hatcheries across the caste group.

Poultry farming is an agriculture based type of commerce there by leading to much participation of poultry farmers in agriculture and poultry business. The study shows that out of total 150 hatchery farmers, 65 percent farmers do hatchery production in mixture with agriculture. It is attractive that there are only 6 percent farmers who are engaged in only hatchery business. Near about 18 percent hatchery farmers are doing business with hatchery. Furthermore, 17 percent hatchery farmers are undertaking service along with poultry business. Comparatively higher proportion of upper caste hatchery farmers (about 5 percent) are engaged in only poultry farming. Landowning castes are dominating the combination of agriculture and poultry (about 69 percent). But upper caste farmers have higher percentage of hatchery farmers do combine with business (about one-fourth) while service and poultry account for about one-third farmers. It is evident that landowning castes carry out hatchery along with agriculture while upper castes mostly do hatchery farming in combination with business and services.

After analysing these hatchery forms it has been found that average yearly input per hen, average yearly output per hen and average earnings per hen are Rs. 1294, Rs. 5365 and Rs. 4475 respectively. It reveals that castes category has higher average annual input per hen. The input is lowest among the upper caste hatchery farmers (Rs. 1294) and it is Rs. 11198 among landowning castes. But average output (per hen)

is relatively highest in landowning castes and lowest in other castes. But the highest annual income per hen is found to be highest in upper castes (Rs. 4703) and it is lowest in other cases. It is evident the upper caste hatchery farmers are economically most efficient closely followed by landowning caste farmers.

## Conclusion

Hatchery farming in Jammu and Kashmir is dominated by landowning castes. Four of the five hatchery farmers in Jammu and Kashmir do belong to landowning castes. It is dominated by medium size landowners and small landowners. The majority of hatchery owners are well educated. In terms of their annual physical capacity the hatcheries are dominated by medium size hatcheries. Most of the landowning castes own medium and small capacity hatcheries. There is a constructive association between capacity of farms and landholding size of hatchery farmers. The size of hatcheries is relative to the landholding size of farmers. But there is no relationship between the size of hatchery and educational level of their owner farmers. In terms of employment of workers about 75 percent hatcheries are of medium and small sizes which employ less than 25 workers. There is positive relationship between size of workforce employed and landholding size of hatchery farmers.

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